

CONNECTING TO YOUR FUTURE

This newsletter, by the Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Board, Inc., was created to provide career and labor market information to educators and students.

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Information Technology



If you are considering a career in Information Technology (IT), you'll soon realize that there are many occupations available. IT careers give you the flexibility to work in many different industries.

Just look around and you can see how much we rely on technology everyday. Imagine being part of this exciting, growing, and changing industry.

Did you know that 90% of all jobs require IT skills? Technology skills and computer proficiency are essential assets for workers in all industries. Even if the career you choose does not focus solely on IT, the job will most likely require the use of computers and technology to accomplish tasks and process information.

Just imagine: a new virus has broken loose and it is wreaking havoc across the world. Businesses are counting on their security units to do something about it. Your team comes up with the solution and the Chief Information Officer tells you:

"You just saved the company from total meltdown."

Source: Careervoyages.gov

Bet You Didn't Know

- Information technology (IT) is the fastest growing sector in the economy.
- Employment opportunities are expected to be good in the IT industry as demand for computer-related occupations increases due to rapid advances in technology.
- Ninety-two percent of all IT workers are in non-IT companies including companies engaged in health care services, real estate, insurance, and financial services.
- Seven of the top 30 fastest growing occupations are projected to be IT-related and all require at least a Bachelor's degree.

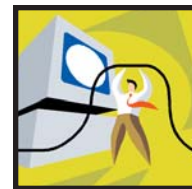
Computer Support Specialists

People interested in becoming computer support specialists generally need only an Associate Degree in a computer-related field, as well as significant hands-on experience with computers. They also must possess strong problem solving and analytical skills as well as excellent communication skills because troubleshooting and helping others are such vital aspects of the job. And because there is constant interaction on the job with other computer personnel, customers, and employees, computer support specialists must be able to communicate effectively on paper, using e-mail, and in person. They also must possess strong writing skills when preparing manuals for employees and customers.

Contact your local technical college for a list of programs available. According to a May 2000 report by the Urban Institute, community/technical colleges play a critical role in training new workers and in retraining both veteran workers and workers from other fields.

Sources:

CareerVoyages.org - U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Bureau of Statistics, Information Technology Association of America, National Workforce Center for Emerging Technologies, The Association for Manufacturing Technology (AMT), National Nanotechnology Initiative, Access Excellence at The National Health Museum - Career Center, Geospatial Information Technology Association (GITA), U.S. Department of Homeland Security.



The Youth Council, acting under the direction of the Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Board, Inc. (WDB), is working to establish a comprehensive youth development system that provides effective learning environments linking education, employment, leadership development, mentoring, and sustained support for youth to achieve economic self-sufficiency. The WDB is a business-led Board that formulates strategies to address workforce development issues in western Wisconsin. For more information contact Ann Wales, WDB Administrative Coordinator, at (608) 789-5600, Walesa@wwtc.edu, or visit our website at www.wwjobcenter.org.

Western Wisconsin
**Workforce
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Board, Inc.**
7 Rivers region
On the Upper Mississippi

Industries with the Most IT Jobs

It has been estimated that almost 33% of all jobs are IT related. There are some industries, such as those listed below, that are specifically filled with various kinds of IT jobs.

Advanced Manufacturing: In Advanced Manufacturing, technologists utilize Computer Aided Design (CAD) and Computer Aided Manufacturing (CAM) to assemble and test systems to create a final product.

Aerospace: Every jet and rocket that flies overhead has information technology to thank for its flight. Whether you want to be involved in the design of the ship that may take us to Mars or have a direct part in that mission, information technology can get you there.

Nanotechnology: Nanotechnology concentrates on understanding and creating improved materials, devices, and systems using particles at the atomic level. The computers and machinery needed to do this are the most advanced in the world.

Biotechnology: New techniques and discoveries are made in biology every day and computers and information technology are an integral part of the process. With mountains of data growing all around them every day, biotechnologists need skilled IT professionals.

Geospatial Technology: IT careers in geospatial technology focus on using and integrating computers, maps, and databases for business planning and analysis.

Homeland Security: IT professionals entering this field work with various technologies including knowledge management tools, sensor systems for airport and border security, web-based security solutions and simulation systems for counter-terrorism and search and rescue operations.

Website Highlight – Breaking In

(<http://www.igda.org/breakingin/>)

Sure you play games, but have you ever considered making them? Computer and video game development is a fast-growing entertainment field, with a lot to offer both professionally and creatively. Your enthusiasm is crucial, but you'll also need skill and qualifications. Games are as competitive as any entertainment industry, and it's not easy to get that first job. But if you've set your sights on the games biz, this information will help you build your skills, make informed decisions, and improve your chances of BREAKING IN.

- The first thing you should know is just how diverse a game team is. So we've put together a pretty impressive list of career paths, grouped by category.
- If you want to know more about the people who make up the industry, check out Developer Profiles to get to know some of your future colleagues.
- Our resources page has a list of schools that offer industry-related coursework, and lots of other game-development-related goodies.

As a game developer, your creative work will have a wide reach. According to the ESA, 60% of all Americans age six and older, or about 145 million people, play computer and video games. And 35% of all Americans identified computer and video games as the most fun entertainment activity. That's more than television (18%) and movies (11%) combined! In what other industry could you have this much fun, challenge yourself, and reach the hearts of countless fans? None.



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